



**Kingston Conservation Advisory Council
Monthly Meeting Minutes
Andy Murphy Neighborhood Center (Note Alternate Location)
Date: November 9, 2016 6:30-9:30pm**

Council Members Elizabeth Broad (absent), Lorraine Farina (excused), Emilie Hauser (Vice-Chair), Lynn Johnson, Kevin McEvoy (Secretary), Julie Noble (Chair), Casey Schwarz

- I. Welcome Guests and Public Comment:** The meeting called to order at 6:38PM by the Chairperson. **Guest Present:** John Mickelson, NRI Consultant. No public comment at this time.
- II. Review and Approval October 2016 Meeting:** Upon motion made by Casey and seconded by Lynn, the October 2016 Meeting Minutes as amended were unanimously approved by the council.
- III. Old Business**
 - 1. NRI/Open Space Project- Special Guest: John Mickelson, Consultant:** John introduced himself and gave a project overview of the NRI including review and compilation of existing maps for the project, consideration of data gaps and new data to be developed, cataloguing material and depositing it online, development of open space index, review of open space index with City staff, interested parties, the public and other stakeholders. Project goals were discussed together with scoping (see Appendix A attached hereto). Discussions ensued regarding who will use the data, how and for what purposes with respect to open space, and using the data as a preliminary steps to an open space plan. The importance of the kml approach was discussed as it is becoming a widely used format and requires far less training than ARC GIS or QGIS. Printed maps, digital maps, the data catalogue and kml maps are the components, which will inform the vision. A list of what maps that should be included is shown, but is not limited to, the maps listed in Appendix B attached hereto, some of which may not be used as the data has been incorporated into other maps. Regarding Hudson River Shoreline type, the map could be updated from the NOAA Environmental Sensitivity Index or other data source, if available:
<http://response.restoration.noaa.gov/maps-and-spatial-data/environmental-sensitivity-index-esi-maps.html>;
Regarding aeriels, a separate analysis may be needed to evaluate changes over time. Bus Routes and Election Districts may be considered auxiliary maps. Review components to an NRI (see Appendix C attached hereto) with respect to cataloging process. An Open Space prioritization model with ranking and evaluation will be created during the course of the project with stakeholder input. The presentation ended with a suggested 4 hour Google Earth training for the CAC. A sampling of the usefulness of kml and Google Earth was reviewed. As an action item, an online document for mark up and comment will be uploaded.
 - 2. Irish Cultural Center Hudson Valley further review:** Tabled

3. **Zoning Code Review discussion:** Kevin reviewed the Zoning Proposed for Natural Areas received from the Planning Dept. The CAC will review as an action item.
- IV. **New Business:** Tabled
- V. **Announcements/Communications/Events:**
1. **Sea Level Rise Implementation Group:** First session is November 10 at 5:30 PM at Scenic Hudson's facility at Long Dock in Beacon NY with Scenic Hudson, Consensus Building Institute.
 2. **Climate-Adaptive Design Final Session:** The final open house for the Climate-Adaptive Design is tentatively scheduled for December 13 at 12 Noon. Link to the project is below:
<https://wri.cals.cornell.edu/udson-river-estuary/climate-change-udson-river-estuary/climate-adaptive-design>
- VI. **Reports/Updates**
1. **Wood Burning/Air Quality (Lorraine Farina):** Tabled
 2. **Kingston Sidewalk Task Force (Lorraine Farina):** Tabled
 3. **Planning Board Liaison (Casey Schwarz):** Discussion concerning the Health Alliance proposal at the Benedictine Campus and RUPCO Energy Square project were reported. No motions made and no resolutions presented. The Chair will request the site plans for both projects for review from the Planning Department as an action item.
 4. **Public Safety Liaison (Lynn Johnson):** The copy of the woodburning brochure done in coordination with Buildingg Safety was discussed.
 5. **Climate Smart Kingston Commission (Julie Noble:)** The chairperson provided an electric vehicle update, date change for next CSKC meeting to 11-22 due to Thanksgiving holiday schedules and mentioned other matters presently before the Climate Smart Commission such as the new revised expedited solar permit now available. There were no action items, resolutions or motions.
 6. **Ulster County Environmental Management Council Liaison (Emilie Hauser):** A brief report resulted in no action items, resolutions or motions. Refer to the Ulster County Environmental Management Council Minutes for further details.
- VII. **Adjournment:** Upon motion made by Casey and seconded by Lynn, the Council members present moved to adjourn at 9:34pm.

Links to external websites are informational only with no representation by the CAC being made as to content contained therein.

Mission: Ensure the conservation of the City of Kingston's natural resources and the enhancement and protection of its environment while fostering unified action on environmental matters.

Appendix A

NRI Scoping with CAC

November 9, 2016

Language from our Open Space Plan application:

- Preserve, protect and enhance open space
- Identify and prioritize green space
- Protect water and biologically diverse resources
- Create and enhance access to parks, natural, historic and cultural resources
- Promote and ensure sustainable development

Language from our NRI grant

The goal is to complete the NRI and develop an Open Space Plan that provides recommendations for priority areas for open space preservation through public purchase, purchase by institution or land trust or through low-impact uses such as parks and low-intensity agriculture. Additionally, existing zoning should be reconsidered in light of the NRI and the Open Space Plan and incorporated in the Comprehensive Plan, by reference.

This project is to develop an inventory that is the precursor to an Open Space Plan. It is a step along the way. In the meantime, it will serve as a resource and reference to the Kingston Planning Department, Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals and may be in time for attachments to the Comprehensive Master Plan, now underway.

CAC has come up with Goals for NRI and Open Space Planning

- Goal 1: Preserve and enhance the natural and cultural features that form Kingston's unique qualities.
- Goal 2: Promote a land use development pattern that is consistent with the carrying capacity of natural resources and the ability to provide services.
- Goal 3: Ensure the quality of Kingston's water resources.
- Goal 4: Protect and promote urban agriculture, community and urban forests and forested land.
- Goal 5: Retain forested areas, stream corridors, wetlands and other open spaces to the maximum extent practical, so as to establish and preserve buffers between developed areas.
- Goal 6: Provide increased protection for environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands, flood plains, steep slopes, ridges, wildlife habitat areas and corridors, and unique geological formations and features.
- Goal 7: Preserve the character of historical sites and structures.
- Goal 8: Protect, expand, connect and create active and passive recreational facilities and opportunities.
- Goal 9: Identify and protect scenic views as seen from roadsides, parks, waterfronts, and other areas requested by the public.
- Goal 10: Preserve and enhance key entryways or gateways to Kingston.

Analysis considerations:

Large parcels with Residential vs. Aerials

Calculate percentage impervious then set goals to decrease CSOs

Analysis of Public Comment map from beginning

Smart Growth Recommendations

Appendix B

Existing Maps

City Owned Property
Forests in Kingston, NY
Forsyth Park
Green Infrastructure
Hasbrouck Park
Hudson River Shoreline Habitat in Kingston, NY
Hudson River Shoreline Type in Kingston, NY
Kingston Aerial Imagery 2001
Kingston Aerial Imagery 2004
Kingston Aerial Imagery 2009
Kingston Aerial Imagery 2013
Kingston Aquifers
Kingston Bedrock Geology
Kingston Bus Routes
Kingston Community Gardens
Kingston Connectivity Motorized
Kingston Connectivity non-Motorized
Kingston Election Districts
Kingston Forest Patch
Kingston Historic and Cultural
Kingston Historic: Rondout and Chestnut
Kingston Historic: Stockade and Fair
Kingston Open Space with Impervious Surface
Kingston Point Park Complex
Kingston Possible Environmental Justice Areas
Kingston Recreational
Kingston Soils
Kingston Storage and Refuse
Kingston Surficial Geology
Kingston Topographic
Kingston Vacant Parcels
Kingston Viewshed
Kingston Water Quality: Potential and Known Sources of Contamination
Kingston Watersheds and Catchments
Major Ecological Features in Kingston, NY
Open Space with Forest Patch
Regional Context of Kingston, NY
Shoreline Habitat at Mouth of Rondout Creek, Kingston, NY
Significant Habitats in Selected Areas of the City of Kingston
Streams and Watersheds in Kingston, NY
Wetlands in Kingston, NY

Appendix C

Table 2: Suggested Inventory Components and Recommended Data: The following list primarily includes widely-available national and New York State data sets. Additional regional data sets may exist and in many cases, county agencies like planning departments have more localized data and should be consulted at the start of the inventory project. In all cases, local data should be included where available and appropriate.

Inventory Component	Recommended Data to Include	Page
Base Map	• Municipal boundaries, transportation and utility networks, topography, aerial imagery, regional watershed boundaries, streams and waterbodies, landmarks	16
Geology and Soils		
Bedrock and Surficial Geology	• Bedrock and surficial geology features and table with geologic unit attributes	16
Soils	• Soil survey units and table with attributes	18
Slopes	• Percent slope calculated from a digital elevation model	19
Water Resources		
Groundwater and Aquifers	• Unconsolidated aquifers	19
Watersheds	• National Hydrography Dataset 10-digit HUC or other regional watershed boundaries • 12-digit HUC subwatershed boundaries • Smaller watersheds of interest to the NRI effort	21
Streams and Waterbodies	• National Hydrography Dataset streams and waterbodies	22
Floodplains	• FEMA floodway and 100-year and 500-year floodplains	23
Wetlands	• National Wetlands Inventory data • DEC Freshwater Wetlands data • Hydric soils from county soil survey	24
Water Quality: Assessment and Standards	• DEC Water Quality Classifications • DEC Waterbody Inventory/Priority Waterbodies List • Water quality monitoring data	26
Water Quality: Potential and Known Contamination Sites	• SPDES permit sites • Hazardous waste sites	28
Habitats and Wildlife		
Significant Biodiversity Areas	• Hudson Valley Significant Biodiversity Areas	28
Hudson River Coastal and Shoreline Habitat	• Documented submerged aquatic vegetation • Tidal wetlands • Significant Coastal Fish and Wildlife Habitats • Hudson River shoreline habitat type • Significant natural communities	29
Stream and Riparian Habitat	• See Streams and Waterbodies section, above • Significant natural communities • Migratory fish runs • DEC trout and trout spawning streams • Known aquatic barriers to resident and migratory fish movement (e.g., dams, culverts)	30
Wetland Habitat	• See Wetlands section, above • Significant natural communities	32
Forests	• Large forest patches • Matrix forests and linkage zones • Significant natural communities	33
Grasslands and Shrublands	• NYS <i>Breeding Bird Atlas</i> and NYS <i>Amphibian and Reptile Atlas</i> data • Significant natural communities	34
Rare Plant and Animal Species and Significant Natural Communities	• Rare plant and animal species and significant natural communities • Areas of known importance for rare species and significant ecosystems • NYS <i>Breeding Bird Atlas</i> and NYS <i>Amphibian and Reptile Atlas</i> data	36
Unfragmented Habitat Blocks	• There are currently no region-wide publicly available data sets. See Chapter 4 for existing methodologies.	39
Climate		
Climate Conditions and Projections	• Scenic Hudson's sea level rise projections for the Hudson River estuary • Table with current average climate conditions and projections of future climate conditions	40
Cultural Resources		
Historic Resources	• National Register and NYS historic districts and individually-designated historic sites • National Heritage Corridor/Area and NYS Heritage Areas	41
Scenic Resources	• Scenic Areas of Statewide Significance • Scenic byways	43
Recreation Resources	• Outdoor recreation destinations and amenities • Public trails and fishing sites • Conservation and public lands	44
Land Use		
Zoning and Tax Maps	• Municipal zoning and tax maps • Real property tax records	45
Land Use and Land Cover	• National Land Cover or Coastal Change Analysis Program (C-CAP) data set	46
Farmland	• Prime farmland soils and farm soils of statewide importance • Agricultural districts	47
Conservation and Public Lands	• Conserved or publicly owned lands under federal, state, county, town, or private ownership • Conservation easements	49